

# Blustery Day At Ives Grove

By Andy Kronwell

Mark Hjortness, superintendent at Ives Grove GC in Racine, played host to 68 superintendents and associates on Monday April 21st. for the WGCSA April monthly meeting. The Red and White courses were the battlefields for a four-man scramble. Those who stacked teams were surprised to find that the payoff slots were 1st, 5th, and 10th place. Team Brian Schmidt, Rod Johnson, and Bruce Worzella took 1st with a 62. The Shaw brothers, Jim, Dan, Pat, and Charlie squeaked out a playoff victory with 68 for 5th place. Don Shaffer, Brad Davis, Karl Schimmel, and David Brandenburg shot 74 to claim 10th place.

Winners of the hole prizes were Chad Ball, Mark Betker, Keith Nienow, and Steve VanAcker. A stiff cold breeze off the lake, which seemed to be in our face 17 of 18 holes, didn't stop anyone from having a great time. Mark and his staff did a great job in preparing the course, despite the 7" of snow and gale force winds he experienced all within the two weeks prior to our meeting. The Ives Grove clubhouse



A good sized crowd of "soil blenders."

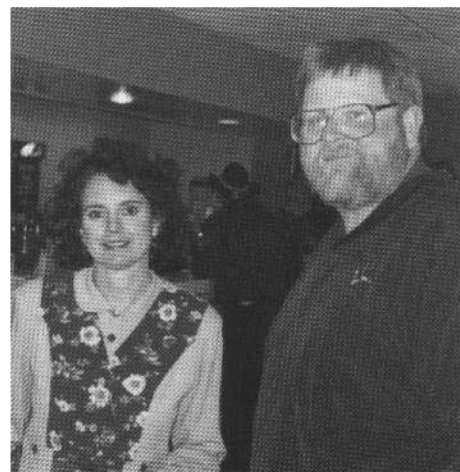
and proshop staff also did an outstanding job in making our April meeting an enjoyable one. Many thanks to all of them.

Christine Faulks was our guest speaker after lunch discussing the "trends in topdressing". A mini mixing facility was created at each table formulating a USGA specification topdressing mix and then a USGA specification mix with excess fines. Not one person in the room could tell by just looking at the two mixes which was USGA spec and which had excess fines. Christine's little experiment hit home the importance of having your topdressing mixes tested. Elaborating on the importance of topdressing mix testing Christine shared an independent Particle Size Analysis report comparing Waupaca sand and another popular sand. The findings of the report again made clear the importance of testing topdressing mixes.

The meeting was also the first time many had the opportunity to meet and visit with Dr. John Stier. He had just moved to the Madison area and this was his first ever WGCSA meeting. We hope he will be able to attend many more in the years to come. Welcome, John. 🌿



Dr. John Stier, Wayne Otto and Gordon Waddington



Chris Faulks and Dave Smith

